UNITED NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/52/23 (Part IV)
29 September 1997

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Fifty-second session
Agenda items 90, 92 and 18

REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE SITUATION WITH REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES*

(covering its work during 1997)

Rapporteur: Mr. Fayssal MEKDAD (Syrian Arab Republic)

CHAPTERS VII AND VIII

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* The present document contains chapters VII and VIII of the Special Committee's report to the General Assembly. The general introductory chapter will be issued under the symbol A/52/23 (Part I). Other chapters of the report will be issued under the symbol A/52/23 (Parts II, III and V-VII). The complete report will be issued subsequently as Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/52/23).

97-25636 (E) 071097

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CHAPTER VII

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES BY THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS ASSOCIATED WITH THE UNITED NATIONS

A. Consideration by the Special Committee

1. At its 1466th meeting, on 16 January 1997, by adopting the suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chairman (A/AC.109/L.1856), the Special Committee decided, inter alia, to take up as a separate item the question of the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations and to consider it at its plenary meetings.

2. The Special Committee considered the question at its 1483rd meeting, on 16 September 1997.

3. During its consideration of the question, the Special Committee took into account the provisions of General Assembly resolution 51/141 of 13 December 1996, on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations, in paragraph 17 of which the Assembly requested the Special Committee to continue to examine the question and to report thereon to the Assembly at its fifty-second session. The Special Committee also took into account all other resolutions adopted by the Assembly on this subject, including resolution 46/181 of 19 December 1991, endorsing the Plan of Action for the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

4. The Special Committee also took into account the provisions of Economic and Social Council resolution 1997/66 of 25 July 1997. In paragraph 15 of that resolution, the Council drew the attention of the Special Committee to the resolution and to the discussion held on the subject at the Council's substantive session of 1997 (see E/1997/SR.42). Further, the Special Committee took into consideration the relevant documents of other intergovernmental bodies concerned, to which reference is made in the fourth preambular paragraph of the resolution it adopted on 16 September (see also para. 14 below, fifth preambular paragraph).

5. During its consideration of the item, the Special Committee had before it a report of the Secretary-General (A/52/185), submitted in response to the request addressed to him by the General Assembly in paragraph 16 of resolution 51/141, containing information on action taken by organizations of the United Nations system in implementation of the resolutions of the United Nations referred to above.

6. At the 1483rd meeting, on 16 September, the Chairman drew the Special Committee's attention to the relevant documentation, including the report by the Secretary-General (A/52/185) and the reports on the related consultations with the President of the Economic and Social Council under the terms of paragraph 14 of General Assembly resolution 51/141 (A/AC.109/L.1866 and E/1996/81 and Add.1), as well as to a draft resolution submitted by him on the item (A/AC.109/L.1867).

7. At the same meeting, the representative of Cuba reported orally on his participation, on behalf of the Special Committee, in the work of the Economic and Social Council in connection with its consideration of the item during the Council's substantive session for 1997 (see A/AC.109/SR.1483).

8. At the same meeting, the Chairman drew attention to the recommendation made by the Open-ended Bureau at its meeting on 15 September to insert a new operative paragraph 9 in draft resolution A/AC.109/L.1867, which would read:

> "9. Requests the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system concerned to provide information on:
>
> (a) Environmental problems facing the Non-Self-Governing Territories;
>
> (b) The impact of the natural calamities such as hurricanes, volcanos, beach erosion, droughts on these Territories;
>
> (c) Ways and means to assist the Territories to fight drug trafficking, money laundering and other illegal and criminal activities;
>
> (d) The illegal exploitation of marine resources of the Territories and their utilization for the benefits of their peoples."

9. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the Russian Federation, Chile, the Syrian Arab Republic and Trinidad and Tobago (see A/AC.109/SR.1483). The representative of Trinidad and Tobago proposed further amendments to new operative paragraph 9, by which subparagraphs (b) and (e) would read:

> "(b) The impact of natural disasters, such as hurricanes and volcanoes, and other environmental problems, such as beach and coastal erosion and droughts, on those Territories;
>
> ...
>
> "(e) The illegal exploitation of the marine resources of the Territories and the need to utilize those resources for the benefit of the peoples of the Territories;"

10. At the same meeting, the Special Committee adopted the proposed amendments (to draft resolution A/AC.109/L.1867), as orally revised, without a vote.

11. At the same meeting, the Special Committee adopted the draft resolution, as a whole, as orally revised, without a vote, with the understanding that the reservations expressed by the delegations of the Russian Federation and Chile would be reflected in the record of the meeting (see A/AC.109/SR.1483).

12. The text of the resolution (A/AC.109/2100) will be transmitted to all States and to the Organization of African Unity, the South Pacific Forum, the Caribbean Community and the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system.

B. Decision of the Special Committee

13. The text of the resolution (A/AC.109/2100) adopted by the Special Committee at its 1483rd meeting, on 16 September (see para. 11), is reproduced in section C below, in the form of a recommendation of the Special Committee to the General Assembly.

C. Recommendation of the Special Committee

14. In accordance with decisions taken at its 1466th and 1483rd meetings, on 17 January and 16 September 1997, respectively, the Special Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations

The General Assembly,

Having considered the item entitled "Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations",

Having also considered the reports submitted on the item by the Secretary-General[1] and the Chairman of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples on his consultations with the President of the Economic and Social Council,[2]

Having examined the chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples relating to the item,[3]

Recalling its resolutions 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 and 1541 (XV) of 15 December 1960, and resolutions of the Special Committee, as well as other relevant resolutions and decisions, including in particular Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/37 of 26 July 1996,

Bearing in mind the relevant provisions of the final documents of the successive Conferences of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries and of the resolutions adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity, the South Pacific Forum and the Caribbean Community,

Conscious of the need to facilitate the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples contained in resolution 1514 (XV),

Noting that the large majority of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories are small island Territories,

Welcoming the assistance extended to Non-Self-Governing Territories by certain specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Development Programme,

Stressing that, because the development options of small island Non-Self-Governing Territories are limited, there are special challenges to planning for and implementing sustainable development and that those Territories will be constrained in meeting the challenges without the continued cooperation and assistance of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system,

Stressing also the importance of securing the necessary resources for funding expanded assistance programmes for the peoples concerned and the need to enlist the support of all major funding institutions within the United Nations system in that regard,

Reaffirming the mandates of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to take all the appropriate measures, within their respective spheres of competence, to ensure the full implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions,

Expressing its appreciation to the Organization of African Unity, the South Pacific Forum, the Caribbean Community and other regional organizations for the continued cooperation and assistance they have extended to the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in this regard,

Expressing its conviction that closer contacts and consultations between and among the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and regional organizations help to facilitate the effective formulation of assistance programmes to the peoples concerned,

Mindful of the imperative need to keep under continuous review the activities of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in the implementation of the various United Nations decisions relating to decolonization,

Bearing in mind the extremely fragile economies of the Non-Self-Governing small island Territories and their vulnerability to natural disasters, such as hurricanes, cyclones and sea level rise, and recalling its relevant resolutions,

Recalling its resolution 51/141 of 13 December 1996 on the implementation of the Declaration by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations,

1. Takes note of the report of the Chairman of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples on his consultations with the President of the Economic and Social Council,[2] and endorses the observations and suggestions arising therefrom;[4]

2. Also takes note of the report of the Secretary-General;[1]

3. Recommends that all States intensify their efforts in the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to ensure the full and effective implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

4. Reaffirms that the specialized agencies and other organizations and institutions of the United Nations system should continue to be guided by the relevant resolutions of the United Nations in their efforts to contribute to the

implementation of the Declaration and all other relevant General Assembly resolutions;

5. Reaffirms also that the recognition by the General Assembly, the Security Council and other United Nations organs of the legitimacy of the aspirations of the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories to exercise their right to self-determination entails, as a corollary, the extension of all appropriate assistance to those peoples;

6. Expresses its appreciation to those specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system that have continued to cooperate with the United Nations and the regional and subregional organizations in the implementation of resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations, and requests all the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to implement the relevant provisions of those resolutions;

7. Requests the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and international and regional organizations to examine and review conditions in each Territory so as to take appropriate measures to accelerate progress in the economic and social sectors of the Territories;

8. Requests the specialized agencies and the other organizations and institutions of the United Nations system, as well as regional organizations, to strengthen existing measures of support and formulate appropriate programmes of assistance to the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories, within the framework of their respective mandates, in order to accelerate progress in the economic and social sectors of those Territories;

9. Requests the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system concerned to provide information on:

(a) Environmental problems facing the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

(b) The impact of natural disasters, such as hurricanes and volcanoes, and other environmental problems, such as beach and coastal erosion and droughts, on those Territories;

(c) Ways and means to assist the Territories to fight drug trafficking, money laundering and other illegal and criminal activities;

(d) The illegal exploitation of the marine resources of the Territories and the need to utilize those resources for the benefit of the peoples of the Territories;

10. Recommends that the executive heads of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system formulate, with the active cooperation of the regional organizations concerned, concrete proposals for the full implementation of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations and submit the proposals to their governing and legislative organs;

11. Also recommends that the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system continue to review at the regular meetings of their governing bodies the implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

12. Welcomes the continued initiative exercised by the United Nations Development Programme in maintaining close liaison among the specialized

agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and in providing assistance to the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories;

13. Encourages Non-Self-Governing Territories to take steps to establish and/or strengthen disaster preparedness and management institutions and policies;

14. Requests the administering Powers concerned to facilitate the participation of appointed and elected representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the relevant meetings and conferences of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system so that the Territories may benefit from the related activities of those agencies and organizations;

15. Recommends that all Governments intensify their efforts in the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system of which they are members to accord priority to the question of providing assistance to the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

16. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to assist the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in working out appropriate measures for implementing the relevant resolutions of the United Nations and to prepare for submission to the relevant bodies, with the assistance of those agencies and organizations, a report on the action taken in implementation of the relevant resolutions, including the present resolution, since the circulation of his previous report;

17. Commends the Economic and Social Council for its debate[5] and its resolution 1997/66 of 25 July 1997 on this issue and requests it to continue to consider, in consultation with the Special Committee, appropriate measures for coordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in implementing the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly;

18. Requests the specialized agencies to report periodically to the Secretary-General on the implementation of the present resolution;

19. Requests the Secretary-General to transmit the present resolution to the governing bodies of the appropriate specialized agencies and international institutions associated with the United Nations so that those bodies may take the necessary measures to implement the resolution, and also requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session on the implementation of the present resolution;

20. Requests the Special Committee to continue to examine the question and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session.

Notes

[1] A/52/185.

[2] A/AC.109/L.1866.

[3] The present chapter.

[4] E/1997/81 and Add.1.

[5] See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1997, Plenary Meetings, 42nd meeting (E/1997/SR.42).

CHAPTER VIII

INFORMATION FROM NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES TRANSMITTED UNDER ARTICLE 73 e OF THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS

A. Consideration by the Special Committee

1. At its 1466th meeting, on 16 January 1997, by adopting the suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chairman (A/AC.109/L.1856), the Special Committee decided, inter alia, to take up as a separate item the question of information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations and to consider it at its plenary meetings.

2. The Special Committee considered the question at its 1469th and 1470th meetings, on 30 May and 6 June 1997.

3. During its consideration of the item, the Special Committee took into account the resolutions of the General Assembly concerning information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations and related questions, in particular resolution 1970 (XVIII) of 16 December 1963, by which the Assembly decided, inter alia, to dissolve the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories and to transfer certain of its functions to the Special Committee, and paragraph 5 of resolution 51/139 of 13 December 1996, in which the Assembly requested the Special Committee to continue to discharge the functions entrusted to it under Assembly resolution 1970 (XVIII), in accordance with established procedures, and to report thereon to the Assembly at its fifty-first session. Further, the Special Committee took into account the relevant provisions of Assembly resolutions 51/146 of 13 December 1996, on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and 45/33 of 20 November 1990, relating to the thirtieth anniversary of the Declaration.

4. At the 1469th meeting, on 30 May, statements were made by the Chairman and by the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran (see A/AC.109/SR.1469).

5. At the 1470th meeting, on 6 June, the Chairman drew the Special Committee's attention to a draft resolution on the item submitted by him (A/AC.109/L.1858).

6. At the same meeting, the Special Committee adopted draft resolution A/AC.109/L.1858 without a vote.

7. On 30 June, the text of the resolution (A/AC.109/2092) was transmitted to the representatives of the administering Powers for the attention of their Governments.

B. Decision of the Special Committee

8. The text of the resolution (A/AC.109/2092), adopted by the Special Committee at its 1470th meeting, on 6 June 1997 (see para. 6), appears in section C below, in the form of a recommendation of the Special Committee to the General Assembly.

C. Recommendation of the Special Committee

9. In accordance with decisions taken at its 1466th and 1470th meetings, on 17 January and 6 June 1997, respectively, the Special Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations

The General Assembly,

Having examined the chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples relating to the information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations[1] and the action taken by the Special Committee in respect of that information,

Having also examined the report of the Secretary-General on the item,[2]

Recalling its resolution 1970 (XVIII) of 16 December 1963, in which it requested the Special Committee to study the information transmitted to the Secretary-General in accordance with Article 73 e of the Charter and to take such information fully into account in examining the situation with regard to the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in its resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960,

Recalling also its resolution 51/139 of 13 December 1996, in which it requested the Special Committee to continue to discharge the functions entrusted to it under resolution 1970 (XVIII),

Stressing the importance of timely transmission by the administering Powers of adequate information under Article 73 e of the Charter, in particular in relation to the preparation by the Secretariat of the working papers on the Territories concerned,

1. Approves the chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples relating to the information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations;[1]

2. Reaffirms that, in the absence of a decision by the General Assembly itself that a Non-Self-Governing Territory has attained a full measure of self-government in terms of Chapter XI of the Charter of the United Nations, the administering Power concerned should continue to transmit information under Article 73 e of the Charter with respect to that Territory;

3. Requests the administering Powers concerned to transmit or continue to transmit to the Secretary-General the information prescribed in Article 73 e of the Charter, as well as the fullest possible information on political and constitutional developments in the Territories concerned, within a maximum period of six months following the expiration of the administrative year in those Territories;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to ensure that adequate information is drawn from all available published sources in connection with the preparation of the working papers relating to the Territories concerned;

5. Requests the Special Committee to continue to discharge the functions entrusted to it under resolution 1970 (XVIII), in accordance with established procedures, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session.

Notes

[1] The present chapter.

[2] A/52/365.